Undergraduate Student Orientation

August 31st, 2021
Outline

1. Land acknowledgement
2. Department of Geography location
3. Introductions
   • Department Chair
   • Program Directors
   • Undergraduate Advising & Support Staff
   • Geographic Information Centre
   • Geography Liaison Librarian
   • McGill Undergraduate Geography Society (MUGS)
McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

• For more information about the land you are on, or have been on, see www.native-land.ca and visit www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com.

• Hochelaga Rock, a memorial to the Iroquois settlement that stood on this very land and was visited by Jacques Cartier in 1535 located on the central path on the left side of Roddick Gates.

• Mohawk (one of the founding nations of the Haudenosaunee confederacy) name for the Island of Montreal: Tiohtiá:ke - “where the people split or parted ways”.

Land acknowledgement
Burnside Hall
805 Sherbrooke Street West

Located on the right-hand side of Roddick Gates on lower campus

Also accessible via the path and courtyard between Otto Maass and the Pulp and Paper building

South of the FDA building
Department of Geography

Burnside Hall, floors 3 to 7:

Staff and Professors’ offices, Departmental classrooms, Labs, the GIC

Burnside Basement:

Public study spaces, uPrint, Soup Café, vending machines, lockers
Department Chair

Prof. Sébastien Breau

sebastien.breau@mcgill.ca
Located in BH room 417

Replacing Prof. Nigel Roulet who is on sabbatical for the 2021-2022 school year.
Program Directors

Undergraduate Affairs Committee Chair

Prof. Benjamin Forest

benjamin.forest@mcgill.ca
Located in BH room 308A
Sustainability, Science and Society Program Director

Prof. Brian Robinson

brian.e.robinson@mcgill.ca
Located in BH room 432

Replacing Prof. Graham MacDonald who is on sabbatical for the 2021-2022 school year.
Program Directors (continued)

Urban Studies Program Director

Prof. Sarah Moser

sarah.moser@mcgill.ca
Located in BH room 413
Advising and Support Staff

Undergraduate Advisor

**Ms. Michelle Maillet**
Located in BH room 323
Working remotely for the course add/drop period in September
Available by email or virtual appointment
advisor.geog@mcgill.ca & michelle.maillet@mcgill.ca

In-person meeting options for students will launch on a part time basis following the end of the course add/drop period. Stay tuned for more information about these services!
Registration and Minerva waitlists

• If a class has a **Minerva waitlist**, you will first need to add yourself to the waitlist in order to be invited to register for the course once spaces become available. [More information on the waitlists system, including detailed instructions can be found here.](#)

• If a class has **no Minerva waitlist** but is full at this time, you can continue to monitor Minerva for spaces freeing up so that you may register.

• If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact us!
Advising and Support Staff (continued)

Undergraduate Coordinator

Ms. June Connolly
Located in the Geography Admin Office in BH room 705 on a part-time basis
Available by email for registration assistance
undergrad.geog@mcgill.ca
Geographic Information Centre (GIC)

Located on the 5th floor of Burnside Hall

GIC Director:
Prof. Tim Elrick
Located in the GIC, in the corner office behind the front desk
tim.elrick@mcgill.ca

Website: https://gic.geog.mcgill.ca/
Email: GICsupport@mcgill.ca
Geography Liaison Librarian

Ms. Jennifer Zhao

Helping use library resources & answering questions related to literature searching, research data management, citing references, and publishing

jennifer.zhao@mcgill.ca
Located in McLennan Library, 6th floor
Dear U1 students,

Welcome to geography, one of the friendliest departments on campus! We are excited to have you in our community. We look forward to the many opportunities to meet you, whether it is virtually or in-person. The MUGS Exec team is dedicated to organizing inclusive events for you to socialize, learn more about the discipline, learn more about career opportunities, and for you to have fun. Importantly, our overall objective is to make sure you feel welcome within the geography department - we are here for you if you have any questions pertaining to inclusivity, events, locker rentals, geography merchandise (such as some fashionable crewnecks we recently got our hands on), and anything else related to being an undergraduate geography student at McGill! Feel free to contact us, whatever it is that’s on your mind. We hope to work with the geography faculty to make this Fall semester as rewarding as possible during your transition to U1 and during the larger transition to a hybrid semester. Whether it is in class, around campus or at a MUGS event, please feel free to come and say hi!

Sincerely,
The MUGS Executives
What we do

MUGS is the McGill Geography department student association. The MUGS executive team works together to advocate for students, organize events and to connect students with opportunities in the field of geography. Our department has a long standing reputation as being one of the nicest groups on campus. The department lounge (which may or may not be open this semester depending on what the latest safety protocols are - we have our fingers crossed!) has been an inclusive and friendly environment for all undergraduate students.

As a geography student, you are automatically a part of MUGS and are on our listserv mailing list, where you will get all the necessary updates regarding events, opportunities and the department. This includes general meetings, social events, academic and research opportunities, interesting guest speakers, and all other geography related festivities!
Meet the MUGS 2021-2022 Exec Team

President, Zaheen Sinha
VP Academic, Becky Stewart
VP Communications, Madeleine Anderson
VP External, AUS, Gaspard Vadot
VP External, SUS, Sarika Hayes
VP Finance, Ryan Cho
U3 Rep, Abbi Baran
U2 Rep, Emma Reddy
How you can reach us

Facebook
Our Official MUGS facebook page https://www.facebook.com/mcgillgeography
MUGS open facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/McGillMUGS

Email
For urgent matters and questions about MUGS you can email us at mcgillgeography@gmail.com

Instagram
@mcgillgeography https://www.instagram.com/mcgillgeography/?hl=en
Apply to join our team! If you are interested in being more involved in the geography community, organizing events, and student politics, this is a great opportunity to join this dynamic team and make some friends on campus.

What does the U1 Representative do? The U1 Rep speaks to the needs and requests of all students in the U1 year who are majoring or minoring in the geography program. They also help with all MUGS affairs (e.g. event planning and logistics). The U1 rep also sits in on MUGS executive meetings and the Undergraduate Affairs Committee (UAC) meetings with the U2 and U3 Reps at scheduled dates.

What does the Sustainability Officer do? The Sustainability Officer takes initiative to make MUGS events environmentally-conscious, which includes finding the most sustainable and cost-effective choices. They also care for any plants within the MUGS Lounge, sit on MUGS executive meetings and help with all MUGS affairs (e.g. event planning and logistics).

Applications will be released in the first week of Fall semester! For more information, please feel free to reach out to us.
Other helpful links to get you connected with our community:

- Department of Geography official Facebook page
- McGill Urban Studies Program Facebook group
- MUGS Official Facebook page
- MUGS Facebook group
- MUGS Instagram (@mcgillgeography)
- MUGS email: mcgillgeography@gmail.com
- Student Association of Sustainability Science and Society (SASSS) Facebook page
- SASSS Facebook group